

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 SSO-00

NIC-01 /060 W

----- 056420

P R 141431Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

RUEHMO / AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2919

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1485

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL, CB

SUBJECT: GKR COUNSELOR ASKS ASSISTANCE

REF: WARSAW 1250

1. GKR EMBASSY COUSELOR, MEN SOUM PHAO, ON MARCH 14 ASKED FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ANY IMMINENT TAKEOVER BY GRUNK. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAS RECENTLY HAD DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING WITH PHNOM PENH AND HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE NOW COMES ONLY BY PRESS AND RADIO. MOREOVER, HE FEARS THAT THE GOP MIGHT BOW TO A POSSIBLE GRUNK REQUEST THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY BE INTERNED, SHOULD THE GRUNK TAKE OVER IN PHNOM PENH. HIS EMBASSY HAD EARLIER RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE THREATENING TELEGRAM FROM GRUNK OFFICIALS. GIVEN POLAND'S GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION FROM THE WEST, MEN SAID HE HOPES FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS' NOTICE FOR EVACUATING HIS FAMILY, PROBABLY TO FRANCE. HE MENTIONED THAT HIS COLLEAGUES IN MOSCOW AND BERLIN MIGHT BE IN A SIMILAR POSITION.

2. THE COUNSELOR HAS ORDERS TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH ON RE-ASSIGNMENT ABOUT APRIL 1 (REFTEL). THE GKR AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO BE REASSIGNED ABOUT THAT TIME BUT WILL NOT BE REPLACED.

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THE COUNSELOR'S SUCCESSOR IS TO BE CHARGE. MEN BELIEVES THAT

YIM KONG SAINGVET, NOW AT THE MFA, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO REPLACE HIM AND HAS ALREADY APPLIED FOR A POLISH VISA. HOWEVER, MEN SUSPECTS THE GOP MAY DELAY APPROVAL, AND HE INTENDS TO STAY EVEN BEYOND HIS OWN TRANSFER DATE, UNTIL THE SUCCESSOR ARRIVES. AS INDICATIVE OF THE GOP'S CURRENT ATTITUDE, MEN SAID THAT TWO WEEKS AGO THE MFA HAD TOLD HIM TO STOP ISSUING HIS EMBASSY'S BIWEEKLY BULLETIN BECAUSE IT INSULTS "FRIENDS" OF POLAND.

3. MONEY IS ALSO A PROBLEM FOR MEN, THOUGH HE MADE NO REQUEST FOR HELP ON THAT SCORE. HE SAID HE HAS PAID THE EMBASSY'S OPERATING EXPENSES FROM HIS OWN POCKET FOR OVER A YEAR, TO THE TUNE OF DOLLARS 25 THOUSAND. ALTHOUGH FUNDS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE GKR, THEY HAVE NEVER ARRIVED. WHILE CAUTIONING AGAINST OUR LETTING THE GKR KNOW HE HAS MENTIONED THIS TO US, MEN INDICATED HE MIGHT APPRECIATE OUR EMBASSY'S POLITELY NUDGING THE MFA ABOUT IT. HE IS MINDFUL OF GKR PROBLEMS, THOUGH, AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE HAS FUNDS FOR EVACUATING HIS FAMILY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO NOTIFY US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT A GRUNK TAKEOVER IN PHNOM PENH IS IMMINENT SO THAT WE CAN ADVISE THE GKR COUNSELOR.
DAVIES

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NNN

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